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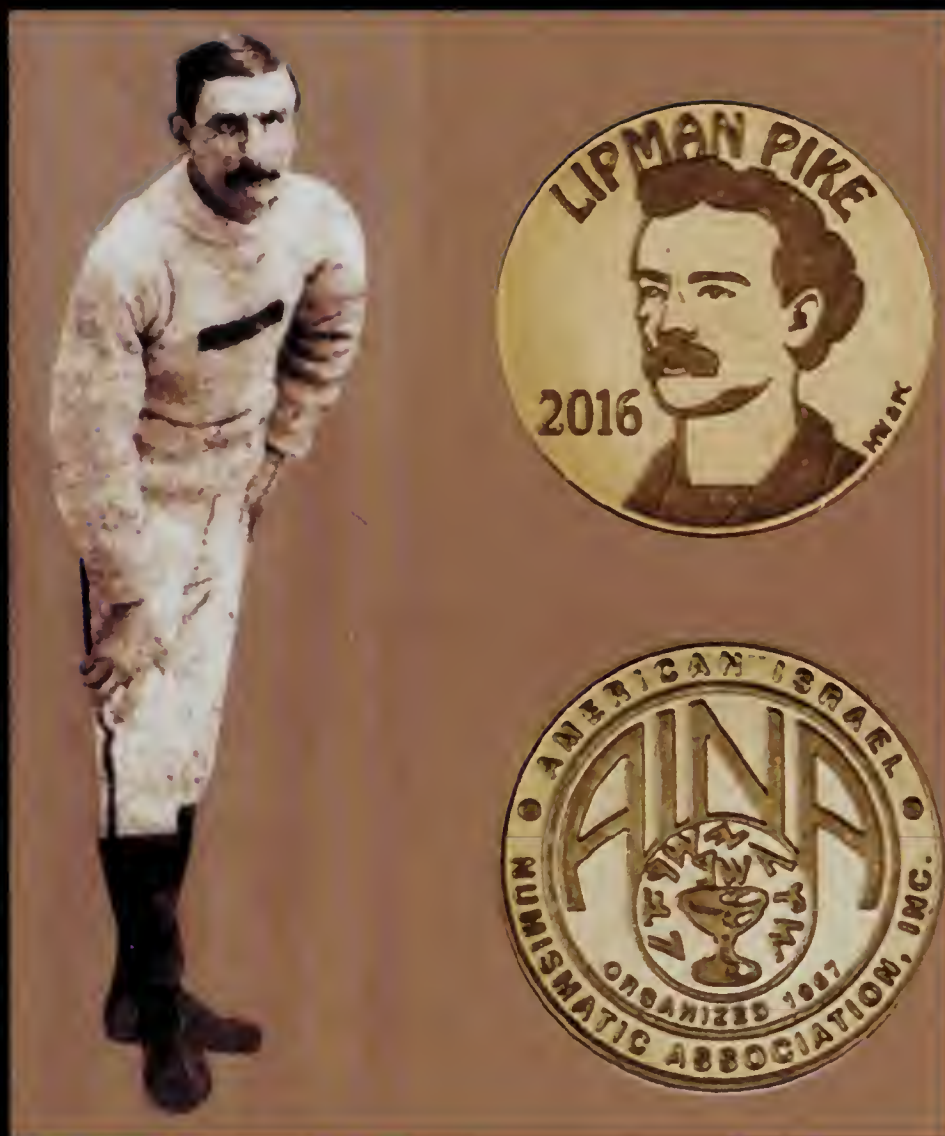
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SHEKEL



The Journal of Israel and Jewish History and Numismatics
Volume 49 No. 1, January February March 2016

Home Run King



*In an 1866
baseball game,
Lipman Pike
hit 5
home runs,
a pro record
that still stands
today*



- *Dissolve my Nobel Prize, fast! A true WWII story*
- *Why are Jews called Jews?*
- *The first Jewish portrait on a coin*
- *The war of Quietus, not quite so silent*

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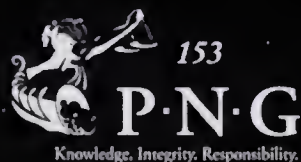
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The American Israel Numismatic Association (AINA) was founded in 1967 as a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the study and appreciation of Israel's numismatics, past and present, and all aspects of Judaic numismatics. More information is available on our web site www.theshekel.org. Articles and Letters to the Editor are invited to be submitted to *The Shekel* Editor Andrew Perala. Advertisers: Annual ad rates are \$750 for a full page and \$200 for 1/5 page; please contact Mel Wacks.



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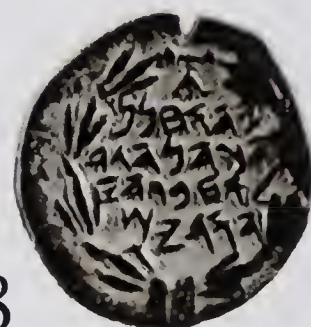


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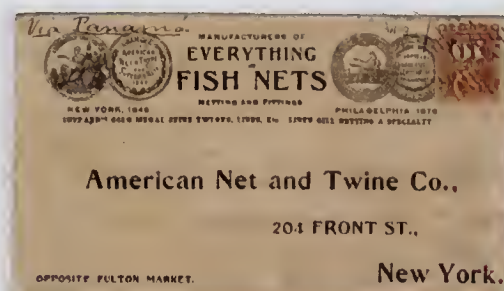
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THE JOY OF *THE SHEKEL* AND AINA MEMBERSHIP

It has been a privilege and a pleasure for me to be President of AINA for 14 years, as well as a Board Member for most of the 48 years of AINA's existence.

But my greatest joy is researching and writing articles for *The Shekel*, as well as working closely with our Editor Andy Perala in putting each issue of *The Shekel* together.

My biggest reward is the nice things that members have to say about *The Shekel* whenever I speak with them - when they call to renew their memberships or at our bourse table and meeting at the American Numismatic Association's annual convention in August. I am biased - I think that *The Shekel* is one of the most beautiful, interesting and informative magazines on Jewish/Israel topics produced anywhere! Whether you have nice things and/or suggestions about AINA, I would love to hear from you.

It will soon be time for our annual Board of Directors election. The deadline for nominations is 30 days after you receive this issue of *The Shekel*. According to our bylaws: "Each Director must be natural persons eighteen (18) years of age or older.
(ii) A Director must have been a mem-

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ber of the Association for at least three (3) consecutive years prior to being nominated for election." The duties are to take part in email discussions from time to time, and if possible to attend our annual Board Meeting held in August in conjunction with the American Numismatic Association's annual convention. If you are interested, please contact me.

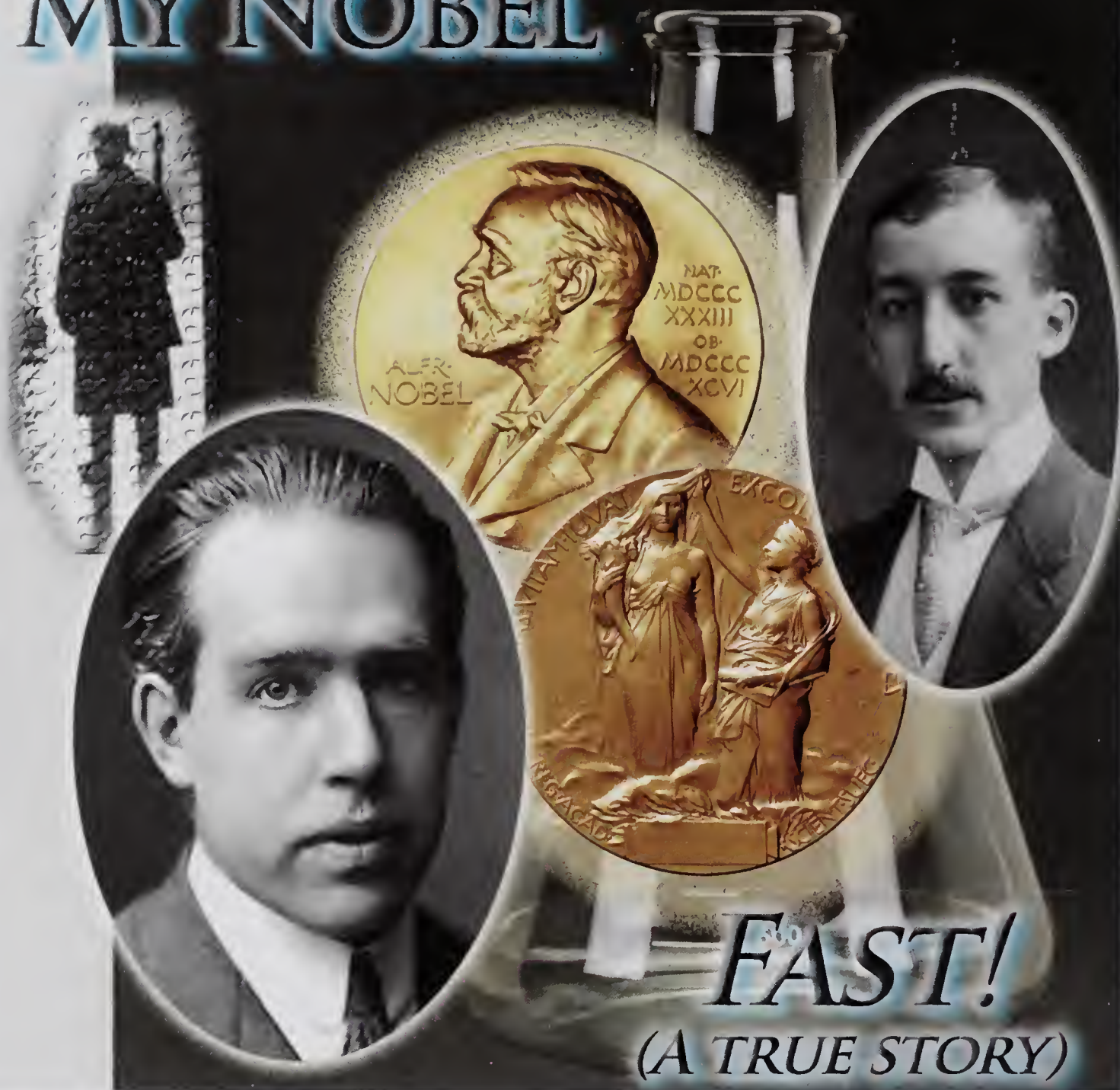
I hope that you will consider attending our annual meeting on **Wednesday, August 10, 1-3 PM at the World's Fair of Money®, Anaheim Convention Center, near Disneyland. Please note that it will be held on Wednesday this year so that we can meet jointly with the members of the Token and Medal Society.** The meeting is free to all. Attendees will hear an illustrated lecture by renowned sculptor/medallist Eugene Daub, who has created medals for the American Numismatic Society, the New York Numismatic Club, the Jewish-American Hall of Fame, etc.

Wishing you all the best,



IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2016 THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF *THE SHEKEL* (UNLESS YOU ARE A LIFE MEMBER). IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR 2016 DUES SO YOU DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE CELEBRATING *JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH* AND EXCITING FUTURE ISSUES.

DISSOLVE MY NOBEL



*INVADING GERMAN FORCES THREATEN
WORLD'S LEADING PHYSICISTS;
EXTRAORDINARY SCIENCE SAVES THE DAY*

BY ROBERT KRULWICH

It's 1940. The Nazis have taken Copenhagen. They are literally marching through the streets, and physicist Niels Bohr has just hours, maybe minutes, to make two Nobel Prize medals disappear.

Continued

Above, center left: Obverse of a Nobel Prize in Physics gold medal. Center right: the reverse of an uninscribed Nobel Prize in Physics medal. Top right: Georgy de Hevesy. Lower left: Niels Bohr. Upper left: German soldier in 1940 guarding Bohr's institute in Denmark at the beginning of the Nazi occupation.



This silver medal was made by the sculptor Rikke Raben for the Niels Bohr Institute in 2010. It was minted at the Royal Danish Mint/National Bank.

Continued

These medals are made of 23-karat gold. They are heavy to handle, and being shiny and inscribed, they are noticeable.

The Nazis have declared no gold shall leave Germany, but two Nobel laureates, one of Jewish descent, the other an opponent of the National Socialists, have quietly sent their medals to Bohr's Institute of Theoretical Physics for protection.

Their act is probably a capital offense — if the Gestapo can find the evidence.

Inconveniently, that evidence was now sitting in Bohr's building, clearly inscribed "Von Laue" (for Max von Laue, winner of the 1914 Prize for Physics) and "Franck" (for James Franck, the physics winner in 1925) — like two death warrants. Bohr's institute had attracted and protected Jewish scientists for years. The Nazis knew that, and Niels Bohr knew, now

that Denmark was suddenly part of the Reich, that he was a target. He had no idea what to do.

How To Get Rid of A Nobel Prize Medal

On the day the Nazis came to Copenhagen, a Hungarian chemist named Georgy de Hevesy (who would one day win a Nobel of his own) was working in Bohr's lab. He wrote later, "I suggested that we should bury the medal(s)," but Bohr thought No, the Germans would dig up the grounds, the garden, search everywhere in the building. Too dangerous.

"I decided to dissolve it."

So Hevesy's thoughts turned to chemistry. Maybe he could make the medals disappear. He took the first one, he says, and "I decided to dissolve it. While the invading forces marched in the streets of Copenhagen, I was busy dissolving Laue's and also James Franck's

Continued



. Denmark 20 kroner 2013 "Niels Bohr and the Bohr Model." Aluminum-bronze, 27mm.
Offered for 4.5 euros by www.catawiki.com/shops/MunthandelRitmeester.

Continued
medals.”

This was not an obvious solution, since gold is a very stable element, doesn’t tarnish, doesn’t mix, and doesn’t dissolve in anything — except for one particular chemical emulsifier, called “aqua regia,” a mixture of three parts hydrochloric acid and one part nitric acid.

Dissolving gold is a slow business. Nitric acid loosens the gold atoms, after which hydrochloric acid moves in, using its chloride ions to surround and transform the gold. While a video may show the reaction in sped-up form, in 1940, they weren’t dissolving little bits of gold. Hevesy’s beaker contained two hulking gold medals ...

It must have been an excruciating afternoon. De Hevesy, in his autobiography, says because gold is “exceedingly unreactive and difficult to dissolve,” it was slow going, but as the minutes ticked down, both medals were reduced

to a colorless solution that turned faintly peach and then bright orange. By the time the Nazis arrived, both awards had liquefied inside a flask that was then stashed on a high laboratory shelf.

Then, says science writer (and Radiolab contributor) Sam Kean, in his book *The Disappearing Spoon*:

‘...When the Nazis ransacked Bohr’s institute, they scoured the building for loot or evidence of wrongdoing but left the beaker of orange aqua regia untouched. Hevesy was forced to flee to Stockholm in 1943, but when he returned to his battered laboratory after V-E Day, he found the innocuous beaker undisturbed on a shelf.’

Back in Denmark, de Hevesy did a remarkable thing. He reversed the chemistry, precipitated out the gold and then, around January, 1950, sent the raw metal back to

Continued



A limited edition 1.75 inch geocoin of just 75 pieces with Niels Bohr on the obverse, and his quantum model of an atom on the reverse. The repeating equation around the reverse rim states Electrons can only gain and lose energy by jumping from one allowed shell level to another, absorbing or emitting electromagnetic radiation with a frequency determined by the energy difference of the levels according to the Planck relation where the symbol h is the Planck Constant, $6.626\ 070\ 040(81) \times 10^{-34}$ J-s. (Offered for 10.9 euros by www.geocoinshop.eu.)

Continued

the Swedish Academy in Stockholm. The Nobel Foundation then recast the prizes using the original gold and re-presented them to Mr. Laue and Mr. Franck in 1952. Professor Frank, we know, got his re-coined medal at a ceremony at the University of Chicago, on Jan. 31, 1952.

Niels Bohr also had a Nobel medal, but he'd put his up for auction on March 12, 1940, to raise money for Finnish Relief. The winning bid was anonymous, but later, Mr. Anonymous gave Bohr's medal to the Danish Historical Museum of Fredrikborg, where it can be seen today.

Three winners, three medals — each of them sold or dissolved, then replaced. In wartime, it seems, Nobel medals get around. ☐

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Bibliography: Sam Kean's book is *The Disappearing Spoon And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World From the Periodic Table of the Elements*, Little Brown, 2010.

For more collector items related to Niels Bohr, see next page.



The Niels Bohr Medal is an international prize, that was instituted by the Danish Society of Engineers in 1955 in connection to Niels Bohr's 70th birthday.

Numismatic items - including medals and notes - abound for Niels Bohr, as well as for the fundamental research into the nature of quantum reality still ongoing today that employs scientists whose work and history may be of interest to readers of *The Shekel*.

Mels Wacks, publisher and editor-in-chief of the magazine, has compiled a nice selection of coins, medals and bank notes for this article of interest to our readers.



Above, Denmark's 500 kroner .999 fine silver version of the 2013 Niels Bohr commemorative coin series honoring the physicist.



Niels Bohr was one of the four scientists who helped to unleash the atom, noted in a medal sculpted by Hal Reed in 1971 in the Society of Medalists series.



In 1985, UNESCO minted a medal to commemorate the birth centenary of Niels Bohr, one of the most eminent scientists of the 20th century.

Born in Denmark in 1885, Bohr is considered the father of quantum physics and his thinking on the ethics of science has infused UNESCO's work.

The medal was sculpted by Siv Holme-Muse of Sweden and struck by the Paris Mint, the obverse bearing the profile of the 1922 Nobel Prize laureate repeated six times. The reverse incorporates Bohr's own drawing of electrons orbiting around an atomic structure and the

formula $E_2 - E_1 = h\nu$, representing electrons in relation to hydrogen, as well as the scientist's signature. To the right of the centre is the inscription *Contraria sunt complementa* (Opposites are complementary), the principle of complementarity Bohr formulated from quantum physics. Since 1998, the UNESCO Niels Bohr Gold Medal has been awarded to researchers who have made outstanding contributions to physics research - or to persons or organizations who have contributed significantly to developing peaceful cooperation across borders and promoting open and free sharing of knowledge. ☐

A Danish 500-kroner banknote issued in 2002 with Niels Bohr and his trademark pipe depicted on the note's front.



B'NAI B'RITH 1927 FUNDRAISING TOKEN



The Independent Order of B'nai B'rith issued tokens in 1927 to award participants in a major fund-raising campaign for the organization's charity work with four groups. Subscribers who donated on a regularly scheduled basis received a sequentially numbered token. One-time donors received a Contributor token with no numbering.

In 1927, the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith - a forerunner of today's B'nai B'rith International - issued tokens to mark participation in a major annual fund-raising campaign, the Wider Scope Program.

Two types of tokens were earned by participants: Contributor, for one-time donors, and Subscriber for those who contributed on a scheduled basis.

The Wider Scope Program raised funds for the I.O.B.B.'s charity work with four groups, including the "Palestine House Building Fund" which gave favorable loans to Jews who had immigrated to Palestine.

Struck in copper-nickel with a diameter of 26 mm, the tokens were slightly larger than a U.S. quarter dollar. Subscriber tokens, like that shown above from a recent Ebay auction, were sequentially numbered via hand punch on the reverse. Contributor tokens were not numbered.

The token's obverse features a seven branch Menorah as a central device, with "B'nai B'rith Wider Scope Program" lettered on the edge of the obverse field; the year "1927" is situated below the Menorah branches and frame the base pedestal.

Continued



The A.I.N.A. medal of 1993, above, celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of B'nai B'rith.

At right, a membership certificate from 1876 created by artist Louis Kurz (1833-1921), printed by the American Oleograph Co. and provided courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Continued

The amount of funds raised apparently were very substantial for the era. The “Jewish Daily Bulletin” of Nov. 1928 notes a goal of \$25,000 over the five-year plan for Wider Scope in the Washington, D.C., district.

Other districts had similar goals reported in the newspapers of the time.

B'nai B'rith (or Sons of the Covenant) is well known for its key role in giving birth to three of today's major Jewish organizations: The Anti-Defamation League, Hillel, and BBYO (or the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.)

Founded in 1843, the organiza-



tion aided cholera victims during an outbreak in the 1860s in Palestine, and continues its large-scale charity funding today, with recent major support for victims of Hurricane Katrina, the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, among many others. □

A.I.N.A. MARKETPLACE



The Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) is a non-profit educational state organization founded in 1978 consisting of individuals and coin clubs throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States.

PAN membership is open to any individual or club interested in the study and collection of coins, currency, medals, tokens, and related material. The cost is \$12 per calendar year (clubs are free). You will receive our journal, *The Clarion* published three times per year and the PAN eNEWS, a free electronic newsletter.

PAN Coin Shows and Conventions occur every spring in early May and fall in late October at the Monroeville Convention Center, 209 Mall Blvd, Monroeville, PA 15146. There are more than 130 tables and 100 dealers eager to buy, sell, or trade coins, paper money, tokens, medals, gold, silver, and bullion.

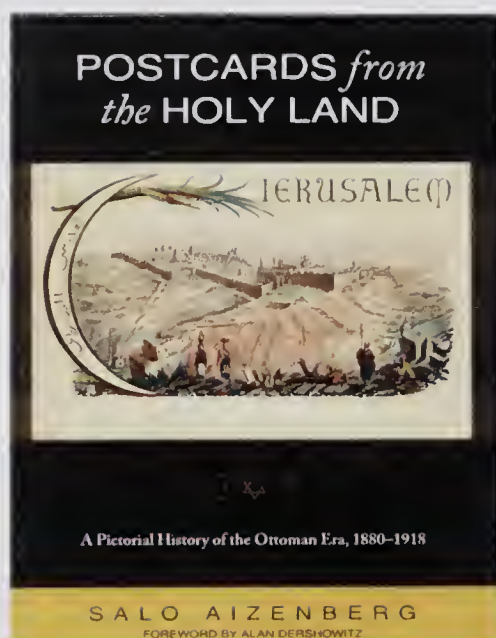
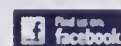
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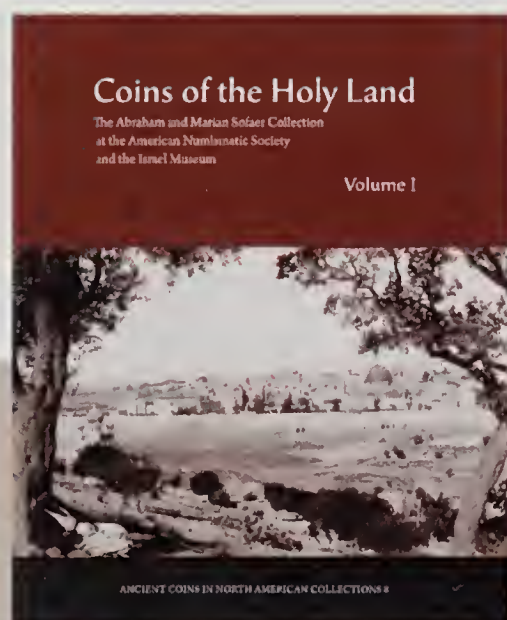
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The journal, *The Israel Philatelist*, is published 6 times a year.



Coins of the Holy Land:

The Abraham and Marian Sofaer Collection at the American Numismatic Society and the Israel Museum

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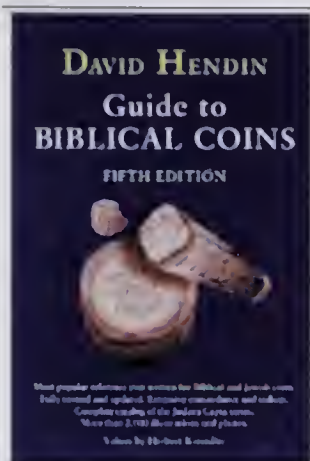
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The book was written by Ya'akov Meshorer with Gabriela Bijovsky and Wolfgang Fischer-Bossert, and edited by David Hendin and Andrew Meadows.

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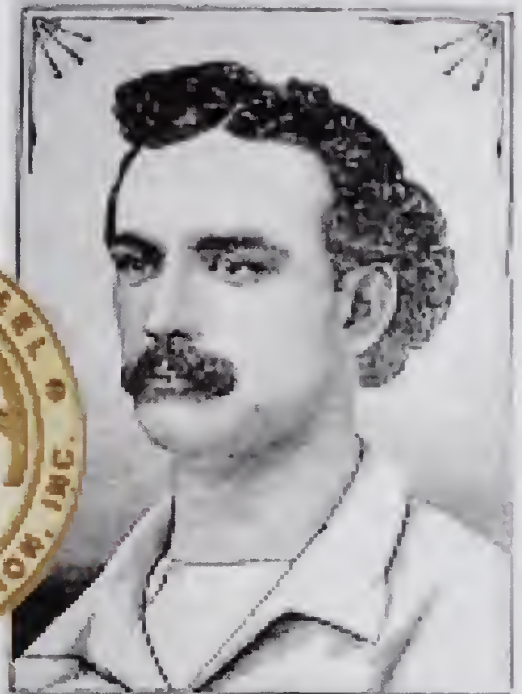
Publishes a bimonthly journal, has a library available to members, and an annual meeting at the ANA. TAMS and AINA jointly sponsor the Ben Odesser Award for the Best Article in "The Shekel." Dues are \$25 (U.S.) and \$30 (non-U.S.). Send to TAMS, c/o Mark Lighterman, 5224 W. State Rd 46, No. 408, Sanford, FL 32771.



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LIPMAN PIKE

BASEBALL'S VERY FIRST HOME RUN KING!



BY ROBERT H. SCHAEFER
SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN BASEBALL RESEARCH

Lipman Pike's five-homer game in 1866 has never been equaled. Born May 25, 1845, Lipman Emanuel Pike was the first great Jewish baseball player, playing professionally from 1866 to 1881. While no comparable statistical records exist for his career through 1870, from 1871 through 1881 Pike appeared in 425 National Association and National League games, hitting .322 with a slugging average of .468. Despite being "small by modern standards... (5-foot 8-inches, 158 lbs.),"¹ Pike nonetheless was among the premier sluggers of his time.

The son of a haberdasher², Pike,

All AINA members in good standing for 2016 will receive a free Lipman Pike medal. Medal obverse concept by Mel Wacks, artwork by Paul Conner; reverse design by Nat Sobel.

according to the *Big Book of Jewish Baseball*,

"...[W]as born in New York City. He was the son of Emanuel and Jane Pike. The Pike family were Jews of Dutch origin. Lip had an older brother, Boaz, two younger brothers, Israel and Jacob, and a sister, Julia. The Pike family moved to Brooklyn when Lipman was very young.

Continued

Continued

“Boaz was the first of the Pike brothers to play base ball. Just one week after his bar mitzvah, Lip appeared in his first recorded game, along with Boaz. This was an amateur game.”³

Playing for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1866, for whom the “long ball was a prominent part of [their] arsenal”, Pike “had numerous multi-homer games” on a team that boasted several sluggers “capable of smashing the ball beyond the reach of opposing fielders.”⁴

A description in *The Baseball Chronology* of the events of July 16, 1866, gives an indication both of Pike’s home run prowess and of the nature of the game at the time:

“Lipman Pike of the Athletics of Philadelphia hits six [6] home runs, five in succession, against the Alert club of Philadelphia. Final score is 67-25.”⁵

Also in 1866, Pike played a major role in the professionalizing of the game as “Philadelphia City Item publisher Fitzgerald...charged the club with paying two or possibly three members of the first nine (reportedly Dockney, McBride and Pike) \$20 per week.”⁶ Meanwhile, *The Biographical History of Baseball* reports:

“Pike was one of the first players to be acknowledged as a professional. While others had certainly been paid before 1866, Pike, along with two teammates on the ostensibly amateur Philadelphia Athletics,

was ordered to appear before the judiciary committee of the governing National Association of Base Ball Players to answer charges that he had accepted \$20 for his services. Although the matter was dropped when nobody bothered to show up for the hearing, the incident exposed for the first time the wide spread practice of paying supposedly amateur players.”⁷

This was perhaps the first step in legitimizing the practice of play for pay.

By 1869 acceptance of this idea allowed all-professional teams to be admitted to the Association. However, the professional teams proved to be so far superior to the amateur teams that matches between them were laughable.

This led to the formation of the first all-professional league in 1871. This, in turn, sounded the death knell for organized amateur baseball and its governing body, The National Association of Base Ball Players.

Overall, Pike seems to have had a fine season with the outstanding Philadelphia Athletic club of 1866, appearing in 16 of 25 games for a team that went 23-2. Playing the outfield as well as second and third base, Pike, in the rudimentary statistics of the day, made an average of 2.7 outs per game while scoring 6.4 runs per game.⁸

At the conclusion of the 1866 season, dissatisfaction with non-

Continued

Continued

native professional players became a major issue with the Philadelphia club, leading to Pike's dismissal from the team:

"The two salaried players who had been imported from New York (Dockney and Pike) were jettisoned in favor of Philadelphians. This experiment had never worked the way management had hoped. Whenever the play of the Athletics had been considered suspicious, the two 'foreigners' had been the most suspected. It seemed that, as nonnatives [sic], their loyalty was perpetually in question. With the exception of Reach, all of the 1867 regulars were local boys."⁹

In 1867, Pike played for the well-respected and powerful Irvingtons of New Jersey, (in six of the Irvingtons' 23 games, all at third base) and for the first-rate Mutuals of New York (in 21 of the Mutuals' thirty games, in the outfield, first, second, and third base).

He appeared exclusively for the New York Mutuals in 1868, hitting a robust .497, with a .661 slugging average for a Mutuals team that went 31-10.10. Pike returned to his native Brooklyn in 1869 where he played for one of the nation's leading teams, the Brooklyn Atlantics.

For the first time the National Association of Base Ball Players recognized the professional class of player and team.

Overall, against all comers, the Atlantics racked up 40 wins against

six losses, with two ties. However, the Atlantics record against teams composed exclusively of professionals fell off to 15 wins, six losses, and one tie. This was Pike's first season as a full-time player, as he appeared in all 48 games, hitting .610 with an astonishing slugging average of .883.

Without diminishing Pike's performance, the modern reader is reminded that in 1869 the batter called for his pitch, telling the pitcher his preference for either a high or low ball, and foul balls did not count as strikes. In addition, the pitcher tossed the ball up to the batter in an under hand motion without snapping his wrist. In other words, the batter did not have to contend with either blazing fastballs or any sort of curve balls. The game was very similar to today's slow pitch softball.

Pike stayed with the Atlantics through the 1870 season, in which the team went 41-17, with 20 wins and 16 losses against professional teams. Pike again played second base in all of the Atlantic games, averaging 2.48 hits and 4.58 total bases per game.¹¹

When the first system of government for professional baseball teams was organized for the 1871 season, The National Association of Professional Base Ball Players, Pike joined the entry from Troy, New York, with the New York Clipper announcing that he "has been

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elected captain of the Haymakers of Troy..."¹²

In the 19th century the captain was in fact the field manager. He determined who played what position, the batting order, as well as directing play on the diamond, while the manager filled what today would be called the role of the general or business manager.

The season got off to an auspicious start for Pike and his nine, as "[t]he heavily favored Mutuals [we]re soundly defeated by the Haymakers of Troy, in Brooklyn, 25-10. Lipman Pike, the Troy second baseman, collect[ed] six hits."¹³

Pike's first year in the newly formed professional league was a smashing success. Playing outfield,

first base and second base for a Troy team that finished sixth in a nine-team league, Pike tied for the league lead in home runs (with 4 dingers), placed second in slugging average (.654), third in total bases, fourth in RBIs, and sixth in batting average (.377).

However, Pike did not fare too well as captain, turning the helm over to second baseman Bill Carver after three losses in four games.

"Members of the Lord Baltimore Base Ball Club of Baltimore, Maryland" in the first year of their existence with Lip Pike at bottom left. *The Dramatic News and Sporting News* couldn't even get Pike's name right. He's listed as Lyman Pike. From the collection of the Maryland Historical Society Library.

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fide star,”¹⁶ Pike enjoyed another excellent season, finishing third in hitting at .355, second in on-base percentage and first in slugging (.504).

For the 1875 season, Pike signed on with the St. Louis club, leaving a bad taste in the mouths of many in Hartford:

“Pike, never reticent, offended many in Hartford with his constant boasting of the havoc his new team would wreak on the old.”¹⁷

In 1876, the National League replaced the National Association as the premier organization for professional teams. Indeed, virtually all the old Association teams, at the urging of the League’s principal motive force, William Hulbert, simply registered with the new League, leaving the Association an empty shell. It vanished into history without a trace.

Pike remained with the new St. Louis NL squad that finished a very respectable second behind the overpowering Chicago White Stockings. Pike batted a solid .323, finished third in slugging (.472), and fifth in total bases. Batting cleanup, then later moving to the leadoff spot, he led his team in every major offensive category, except runs scored and walks.

Prior to the 1877 season, Pike changed teams yet again, this time signing on as captain with the lackluster Cincinnati Reds. “The new fair-foul rule (for 1877) did



Lipman Pike card from commemorative baseball card set, “Jewish Major Leaguers: American Jews in America’s Game.” Each set contains 141 cards of every identifiable Jewish Major League baseball player from 1871 to the 2003 All-Star break. Produced by The American Jewish Historical Society, in cooperation with Jewish Major Leaguers, Inc., and printed by the Fleer Trading Card Co.

not hurt the hitting style of ... Pike, a four time home run champion in the 1870s,”¹⁸ but despite leading his league in home runs again, hitting .298, and “excel[ling] defensively as a swift center fielder...his heroics were not enough to keep Cincinnati from finishing last in the league for the second consecutive year.”¹⁹

All that losing seems to have cost Pike the captain’s helm, as “Pike resign[ed] as Cincinnati captain (following a 13-2 loss to St. Louis)” on June 10, and was “succeeded by Bob Addy. Pike continue[d] as the

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starting center fielder.”²⁰

It appears that being a left-handed middle infielder finally caught up with Pike in 1877, as David Nemec reports:

"Pike played the most games on the [Cincinnati] team at both second base and center field. He moved permanently to center field following a game played in Brooklyn on Aug. 18, 1877. *The New York Clipper* observed, ‘Pike is a splendid outfielder and quick in handling the ball on the bases, but his left-handed throwing unfits him from second-base playing.’”²¹

Despite league-leading home run totals that are miniscule compared to the modern era, Pike’s status

as a true power hitter should not be dismissed. As stated in *Before They Were Cardinals*, while “Pike’s totals... were ludicrous by today’s standards - he won his four (home run) titles by hitting a com-

bined total of eighteen home runs ... As the home run became more commonplace, the game’s leading sluggers actually hit a smaller percentage of the overall home runs.”

In Pike’s best season, 1872, his league-leading six home runs accounted for 17.1 percent of the thirty-five home runs hit in the Na-

tional Association that year. Thus, the 1872 season marked one of only 21 occasions in baseball history when a league’s leading home run hitter accounted for more than 10 percent of all the league’s home runs.”²²

In addition, he finished in the top ten in slugging and in doubles in seven consecutive seasons, in total bases and triples six times, and OPS five times. All this was accomplished in a career spanning just eight relatively full professional seasons.

Perhaps his most famous feat of power probably occurred in this season of 1877, as the *Sporting Life* of May 27, 1883, reflecting on the demolition of Brooklyn’s Union

Grounds, spoke of “the pagoda from which rises the rod once bent by a ball struck from the home plate by ‘Lip’ Pike.”²³

How far from home plate was the rod atop the pagoda? The precise dimensions of the Union

Grounds were lost forever when it was razed on May 28, 1883. However, the late Larry Zuckerman (a SABR member whose specialty was reconstructing the dimensions of the ball grounds of yesteryear) provided the following information:

“Union Grounds was between

A TRUE POWER
HITTER, IN ONE OF
HIS STELLAR SEASONS
PIKE ACCOUNTED
FOR MORE THAN
10 PERCENT OF ALL
HOME RUNS HIT
THAT YEAR IN PRO-
FESSIONAL BASEBALL.

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Harrison and Marcy Avenues (sort of east and west) and Rutledge and Lynch Streets (sort of north and south). The field featured a horse-shoe shaped grandstand, facing west from Harrison. There was a board fence about 10 feet high surrounding the park, parallel to the streets and about 10 feet inboard of the sidewalks. Assuming a midline location of home plate, the foul lines would have been about 310 feet with dead center about 470 feet ... The pagoda seems to be in right center, more or less on a line drawn from home plate to the Marcy-Rutledge corner. I would put it at about 360 feet from home plate, perhaps more distant ...”²⁴

Imagine a batted ball crashing into a metal rod about 40 feet above the ground level, and 360 feet away from home plate, with sufficient force to bend the rod!!!

Zuckerman continues:

“In 1877 Pike hit the ball over the ladies stand - I have no idea what that means or where it was - but the ball was still in play and he beat it out for an inside-the-park home run. The paper said it was the longest home run at the park since the introduction of the dead ball, suggesting that it was not as long as some of the 1876 shots...”²⁵

Pike re-signed with the Cincinnati nine for the 1878 season. The infamous reserve rule was not enacted until 1879, and the players

were free agents once their contract expired at season’s end. An account in the May 21, 1878 *Redleg Journal* gives further evidence of Pike’s enormous power:

“Lip Pike’s long drive highlights a 13-2 win at Lakefront Park in Chicago. Pike’s blast not only cleared the fence, but a freight shed and a half dozen railroad cars. Pike only earned a double on this hit, however, because of the ground rules of the ball park. Built on a narrow lot between Michigan Avenue and the railroad yards, Lakefront Park had foul lines of less than 200 feet. Balls hit over the fence were considered doubles. Pike’s hit was of such force, however, that the Enquirer felt obliged to estimate the distance: 200 yards! No doubt Pike’s drive was a mighty wallop, but 600 feet strains credulity.”²⁶

The left field line at Lake Front Park was 180 feet, while the right field line measured 196 feet. Straight away center field was about 300 feet. There were two poles located along the outfield fence - one in left center and the other in right center. The ground rule provided that any fly ball clearing the fence between these two poles was an “automatic” home run. Any other over-the-fence fly balls were merely doubles. Pike must have pulled his ball rather sharply down the right field line.

Cincinnati’s acquisition of “Buttercup” Dickerson spelled the end of Pike’s tenure there, as related by

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David Nemec:

“After playing 31 games and hitting .324 in the lead-off position, Lip Pike was released by the Cincinnati team. This is due to Louis ‘Buttercup’ Dickerson joining the team, even though Pike went 2-for-6 in his last game vs. the Providence Grays on July 9th. Dickerson batted .309 in 29 games for the Reds. Lip was signed by the Providence team and debuted with them on July 31st. He played second base and batted third. On August 8, he went 0-for-7, made three errors and was released the next day. Pike was replaced by Charlie Sweasy at second base. Sweasy hit only .175 in 55 games and committed 54 errors so it is difficult to understand how he improved the team.”²⁷

But Pike got some measure of revenge, as *The Baseball Chronology* reports the events of July 31, 1878: “Lip Pike, released by Cincinnati, goes 4 for 5 with 3 RBIs for Providence, as the Grays beat his old team 9-3.”²⁸

Pike slipped down to the minor

leagues in 1879 and played for teams in Springfield and Albany. Captain and center fielder for the Springfield club, he appeared in a total of 53 games and hit .356.

Beginning the 1880 season with Albany, Pike showed he still had home run power, as evidenced by this report in *The Baseball Chronology* regarding the game of May 21, 1880:

“In Albany’s Riverside Park, Lip Pike hits a ball over the wall and into the river. Right fielder Lon Knight begins to go after the ball in a boat but gives up. Few parks have ground rules about giving the batter an automatic home run on a hit over the fence.”²⁹

According to David Nemec: “Pike played for the Albany team until it disbanded in July. He then played for the Unions of Brooklyn in a three-team tournament held at the Union Grounds on August 18th, featuring the Washington and Rochester teams. Pike also played for the New York Metropolitan team. He appeared in a total of 12 games and batted .241.”³⁰



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“Pike opened the [1881] season playing second base for his old Atlantic team in a minor league and working in the mercantile business. However, in late August he was called up by the National League Worcester Ruby Legs when Arthur Irwin was disabled. He joined Worcester on August 27th, played center field and batted second. In six games he went 3-for-25, a mere .120 batting average.”³¹

Pike’s miserable play for the Worcester club led to controversy, as noted in *The Baseball Chronology*’s account of events as the season of 1881 drew to a close:

"September 3rd: Center fielder Lip Pike makes 3 errors in the 9th inning to give Boston 2 runs and a 3-2 victory over Worcester. The losing club immediately accuses Pike of throwing the game and suspends him."³²

"September 29th: At a National League meeting in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., the league adopts a blacklist of players who are barred from playing for or against any NL team until they are removed by the unanimous vote of the league clubs. These men are: Sadie Houck, Lip Pike, Lou Dickerson, Mike Dorgan, Bill Crowley, John Fox, Lew Brown, Emil Gross, and Ed Caskins.”³³

His baseball career essentially over, Pike “became a haberdasher in Brooklyn ... Lip’s haberdashery became a successful business and a

meeting place for local base ball enthusiasts. After the expiration of his year’s ban, Lip decided to continue with his business enterprise.”³⁴

While his professional career was over, Pike continued an interest in the game, “playing center field for an amateur club on Long Island.”³⁵

Finally, as reported by David Nemec, Pike made one final attempt to play at the major league level. It came on July 28, 1887: “At the age of 42 Pike played center field and batted sixth for the New York Metropolitans, an American Association team. He was supposed to pitch, but switched to the outfield at the last moment. The papers reported that his fielding was good, but ‘at the bat he was quite weak.’”³⁶

Pike “died of heart disease on October 10, 1893 in Brooklyn, at the age of 48. His funeral was a notable event, attended by much of the Jewish and base ball communities of Brooklyn. The services were conducted by Rabbi Geismer of Temple Israel and, according to the *Brooklyn Eagle*, he ‘paid fitting tribute to the exemplary life led by the deceased.’”³⁷

In subsequent issues, the *Sporting News* published a series of tributes to Pike, indicating his stature as one of the greats of his time:

“Pike was the center fielder of the Atlantics of Brooklyn in the latter’s palmiest days and as an all-round batsman, fielder and base runner he had few if any superiors. He was a

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left-handed batsman and in his day could hit the ball as hard as any man in the business. He was a right field hitter and during his career had sent balls over the right field fence of nearly every park in which he had played in.³⁸

“Pike...was one of the few sons of Israel who ever drifted to the business of ball playing. He was a handsome fellow when he was here, and the way he used to hit that ball was responsible for many a scene of enthusiasm at the old avenue grounds...The roster of ball players who once wore the red and who have been called out by Umpire Death is not very large, but in the passing away of ‘Lip’ Pike one of the greatest sluggers who ever batted for Cincinnati has joined the file in eternity.³⁹

“The death of ‘Lip’ Pike removes another of the veterans of the seventies from the ranks of the men who played as stars when most of the present favorites were babies. I remember Pike’s ball playing best through a hit which I saw him make at Cincinnati ... He hit the first ball pitched and none who saw that ball sail out over the right fielder’s head will ever forget it. It went not only over the right field fence, but continued to sail until it cleared the brick kiln beyond and dropped into the high weeds bordering on Mill Creek.

"I am impressed with the belief that if the distance could be mea-

sured that hit of Pike’s would go on record as the longest fly ball ever made. The last time I saw Pike - which was during the New York’s last series of Championship games at Eastern Park - we rode together in the elevated train from the ball ground, and he recalled that famous home run with a great deal of pride. Some one of the players on that day had made a home run, and ‘Lip’ could not refrain from comparing it with the greatest incident in his professional career.

“...Those who knew Pike appreciated him most. He was one of the few ball players of those days who were always gentlemanly on and off the field, a specie which is becoming rarer as the game grows older. Such men as Pike, Barnes, Spalding, Reach, Jim White, George Wright, and Morill, creditable to the game professionally and personally, are becoming scarcer every year.”⁴⁰

Several honors came to Lipman Pike in the years following his death. The publisher of Philadelphia’s prestigious *Sporting Life*, Francis Richter, constructed hypothetical All-Star teams in 1911. Richter selected Pike as one of his three outfielders for the 1870-1880 time period.

The Base Ball Writers of America held the inaugural election for the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 1936. Despite the fact that Pike had been dead for more than

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forty three years and his playing career had ended years before most, if not all, of the electors were born, he still received one vote. So to some small extent his achievement as baseball's first notable slugger was recognized.

Finally, the *Big Book of Jewish Baseball* reports that Lipman Pike was elected to the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Netanya, Israel, in 1985.⁴¹ ▢

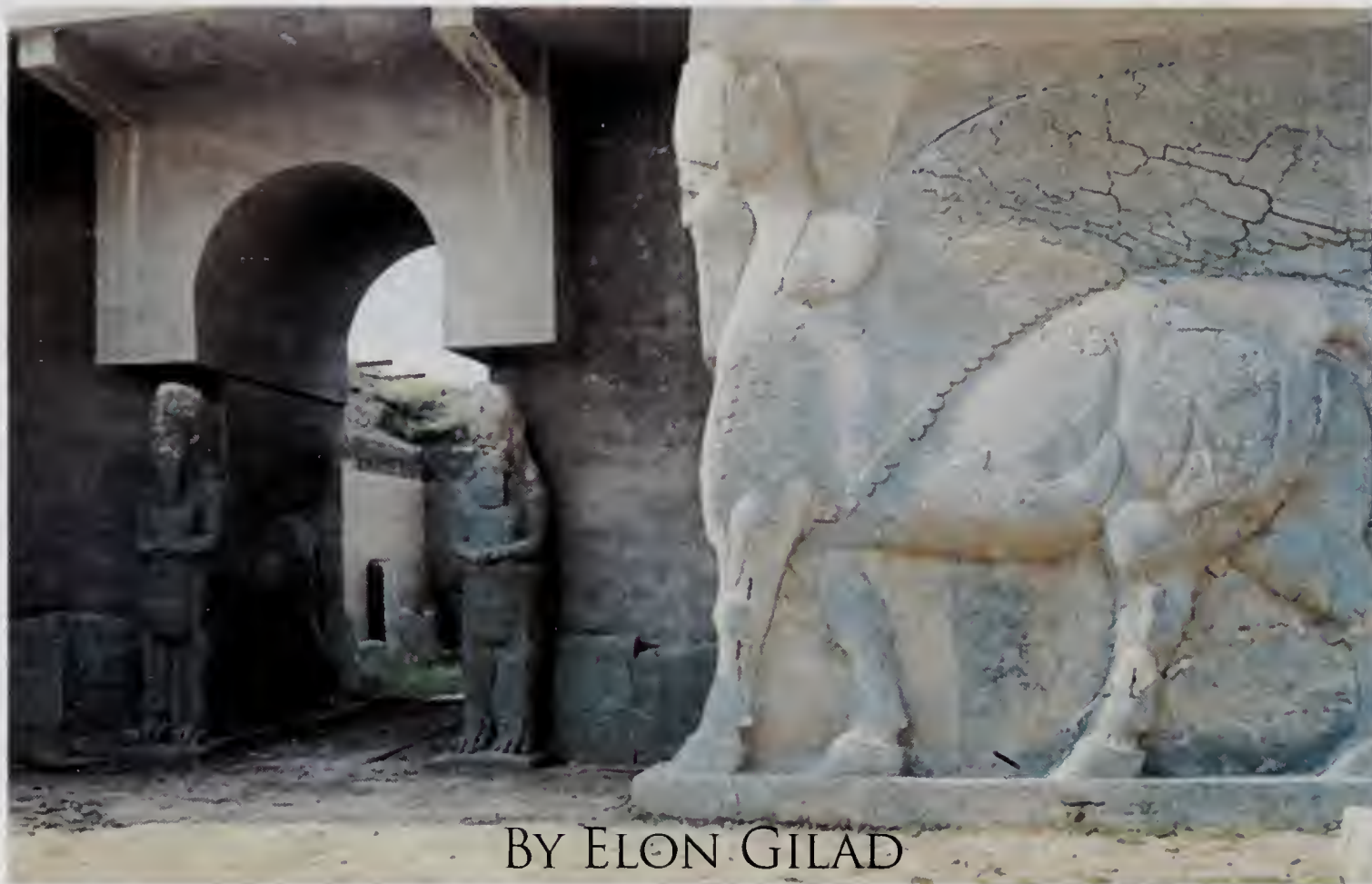
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- 1 *Blackguards and Red Stockings*, page 33. William Ryczek. 1992.
- 2 *A Sporting Time*, page 178. Melvin L. Adelman. 1986.
- 3 *The Big Book of Jewish Baseball*, page 134. Peter S. and Joachim Horvitz. 2001.
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- 18 *Before They Were Cardinals*, page 3. Jon David Cash. 2002.
- 19 Ibid, pages 38-39.
- 20 *The Baseball Chronology*, page 32. James Charlton, ed., 1991.
- 21 private e-mail from David Nemec, August 7, 2002.
- 22 *Before They Were Cardinals*, page 3. Jon David Cash. 2002.
- 23 *The Sporting Life*, May 27, 1883.
- 24 private e-mail from Larry Zuckerman, Saturday, March 25, 2000.
- 25 Ibid. Larry Zuckerman passed away shortly after this exchange of e-mails without completing his landmark ball park project. Fortunately, he willed all of his data and the many products of his research to another SABR member who is now attempting to bring Zuckerman's project to fruition.
- 26 *Redleg Journal*, page 54.
- 27 private e-mail from David Nemec, August 7, 2002.
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WHY ARE JEWS CALLED JEWS?



BY ELON GILAD

The word “Jew” ultimately comes from Judah, an ancient kingdom centered in Jerusalem, in the 2nd century BCE. But how did the kingdom’s Hebrew name, Yehudah (Judah in English), pronounced ye-hu-DAH, beget “Jew”?

The earliest reference to the Kingdom of Judah is in a clay tablet found in Nimrud, the capital of the mighty Assyrian Empire (and now a heap of ruins in northern Iraq after ISIS obliterated the ancient city). The tablet,

Photo by M.Chohan/Wikimedia.

A portion of the palace in Nimrud, where the first reference to the Kingdom of Judah was found. The ancient Assyrian capital was destroyed in 2015 by ISIS.

Kalhu Palace Summary Inscription 7, dating from approximately 733 BCE, describes the military exploits of King Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria. On this list of the kings and kingdoms he vanquished is: “Jehoahaz of the land Judah”. Clearly, that refers to King Ahaz’s run-in with the Assyrians, described in 2 Kings 16.

Continued

Courtesy the British Museum.
Part of the clay tablet, with
holes, that are the annals of
Tiglath-Pileser III, conquests
and building operations, men-
tions Ahar of Judah, kings
of Ammon, Moab, Ashkelon,
Edom, Gaza and Tyre.



Continued

Before we see how
the name of an ancient
kingdom called Yehudah
“morphed into an ethno-
religious group called
“Jews,” we should see
how the kingdom got its
name in the first place.

For the sake of good or-
der: The original Israelite
kingdom was called Judah.
During the Persian Period
the land became a prov-
ince of that empire, called
Yehud; then in the Roman
Period, the land became
a Roman province called
Judea. But let us discuss
the first of those succes-
sive entities.



Courtesy Wikimedia.
Map showing the Kingdoms of Israel (blue) and
Judah (orange) in the Ninth century BCE.

Lost in translation

According to the Bible, the
kingdom was named after the
tribe from which it arose. That
tribe was Judah, which was in
turn was named for its epony-

mous progenitor - Judah, Jacob’s
fourth son.

As is the case with his brothers,
the Bible explains Judah’s name
based on a pun, which is totally
lost in translation: “And she

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Photo and description courtesy the Australian Numismatic Society.

Unique Quarter Shekel in the British Museum struck before 333 BCE. The reverse portrays a seated deity on a winged wheel with bearded mask in the lower right--described by Hill (1914) and others as the first Jewish coin following the description in Ezekiel, Chapter 10. Barag (1991) suggests the deity as the God of Yehud, ie. The God of Israel. Gitler & Tal (2006) suggest it is a product of the Philistinan mint produced by Edomite Jews and one of the earliest coins of the Yehud series. Mel Wacks believes that the head in the lower right is actually that of Ezekial, bowing down to God.

Continued

conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the Lord: therefore she called his name Judah.” (Genesis 29:35). The phrase the King James Bible renders “will I praise” is o-DEH, which really means “will I thank.” If the name is a concatenation of yehu, an abbreviated form of the divine name, and udah, the verb “thank,” which would mean the name means “Thank God.”

Many modern biblical scholars reject the biblical account as mere fiction that developed over the ages, mainly to explain the relationship between the tribes, especially why Judah should lord it over the others. So if Judah the ancestor never existed, how did

the tribe come to be called by that name?

The scholars do agree with the Bible that the first half of the name is the abbreviated form of the divine name. Where they differ is on its second half.

The American archaeologist William F. Albright hypothesized that odeh is a verb meaning “led,” from the root YDH – which exists in Arabic, a related language, though not in Hebrew. Thus, according to Albright, the tribe’s name means “led by Yahweh.”

The Jewish German philologist Julius Lewy, on the other hand, thought that the name meant “Yahweh’s” (people), arguing that the “d” in the name was the

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Gold Aureus, issued by Emperor Vespasian, 70 C.E. The reverse features a mourning woman (Judaea personified) seated right; behind, trophy consisting of helmet, cuirass, oblong and round shield, greaves and two round shields. Beneath the name of the country defeated by the Romans - IVDAEA

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Hurrian language's possessive case ending. Both these explanations seem unlikely.

Judah is destroyed

However Judah got its name, it didn't last long. In 586 BCE, the kingdom was overrun and destroyed by the Babylonian Empire and the Israelite elites were exiled to Babylon.

In 538 BCE, Cyrus the Great decreed that the Israelite exiles could return to their land, which was restructured as a semi-autonomous Persian province named Yahud.

For the next 700 years, Jerusalem and its environs maintained some version of this name as the land passed from ruler to ruler. This ended when the Bar Kochba revolt was crushed in 135

CE. The Romans threw out the Jews and renamed the region Syria-Palestine.

But while the region was no longer designated by the Latin name IVDÆA, the ethno-religious group that traced its origins to it spread throughout the Roman Empire, and received an appellation designating them as people from there - *iūdaeus*. This Latin word came from the equivalent Greek word *ioudaios*, which in turn came from the Aramaic *yehudai*, which in turn came from the Hebrew *yehudi* - Judean.

But what does all this have to do with the English word "Jew"?

The Dark Ages descend

As the Roman Empire fell apart and Europe descended into the

Continued

At right, the last line of ancient Hebrew of the inscription on this bronze prutah issued in the first century BCE, is *Yehudim*, or “Jews.” The full Hebrew inscription reads “*Yehochanan HaCohen Gadol VeChever HaYehudim*” (Yehochanan the High Priest and the Community of the Jews.)



At left, the reverse of 53mm bronze medal honoring author Eugene Süe issued in 1845 features the titles of his most famous books, including at the bottom: “*Le Juif Errant*” (*The Wandering Jew*), 1844.”

Continued

Dark Ages, in the Fourth and Fifth centuries CE, the Latin spoken in the Roman province of Gaul slowly turned into what linguists call Old French.

Latin words beginning with the letter “i” began to be pronounced like the letter “j” (which didn’t exist at the time). Later, during the following centuries, the name *iūdaeus* became gradually truncated. By the 10th century, the French word for Jew was pronounced *judeu*. A century later, the word morphed into *juiu*.

Meanwhile, in 1066, a group of French-speaking Norman aristocrats, led by William the Conqueror, seized control of England.

The Normans not only brought French to England: they also brought over Jews, who made England their permanent home for the first time, at least in appreciable numbers. The new foreign people were known by their French name - at the time - *juiu* (after the Norman Conquest, French tacked on an “f” to end of their word, making it *Juif* today).

Continued



Photo courtesy Dr. Ira Rezak.

Official medal commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Settlement of the Jews in the United States, designed by Isidore Konti, issued in 1905, features the inscription “COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.” Unfortunately, the word “Jew” is often used in a disparaging way, especially on German anti-Semitic medals in the form of “Jude,” and apparently does not appear in English on any medal — replaced rather by the term “Jewish.”

Continued

The oldest English use of “Jew” on record, according to the Oxford English Dictionary (which is where one looks up this kind of thing) is from roughly 1275: “Pilates hym onswerede, am ich Gyv þenne?”

It is a translation taken from the New Testament: “Pilate answered, Am I a Jew?” (*John 18:35*).

The spelling of Gyv underwent some changes over time, with the u and v becoming distinct in the late 14th century.

In the following centuries, several variations appear: Ive, Iewe, Iew and more.

Eventually, in the 17th century, the letter J appeared in English as a way to distinguish between i pronounced as we do, which comes from Germanic sources (e.g., island) and those of French origin, pronounced like a soft G.

Since “Jew” fell into this latter category, it began to be spelled with a J. The first known instance of this spelling is in Richard Brinsley Sheridan’s comedy of manners “*The Rivals*,” in 1775: “She shall have a skin like a mummy, and the beard of a Jew.”

And that is how we have been spelling it ever since. ▢

Reprinted courtesy Ha’aretz and Rabbi Shafran.

THE FIRST JEWISH COIN PORTRAIT



Image courtesy www.fontanillecoins.com

This 13-millimeter bronze coin is described in a recent Fontanille Coins auction as a “fantastic example for this extremely rare coin type depicting the portrait of Herod Philip himself, as he was about 55 years old. Of the 11 specimens recorded to date, this piece is one of the two or three finest, far above the Heritage-Shoshana example sold in 2012.” Herod Philip AE 13 mm struck in the year 30 CE in Caesarea Philippi (GBC 1232). Weight 1.52 grams.

A small bronze with an image of Philip, one of the sons of the king Herod the Great, displays one of the earliest known Jewish portraits and possibly the first Jewish portrait on a coin.

According to the auctioneer, Fontanille Coins, the specimen shown above is the first Jewish portrait on a coin and of a type “contemporary to the time Jesus was preaching in the territories of Philip (‘When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the

Son of man am?’ [Matthew 16:13](#)). For more information, read the article published in Israel Numismatic Research Vol. 6 (2011): *Herod Philip: The First Jewish Portrait*.”

Philip’s father and mother were Herod the Great and Cleopatra of Jerusalem. He was married to his relative Salome. (In the *Gospel of Mark 6.17*, Philip is mentioned as the first husband of Herodias. This is an error; Herodias was never married to Philip.)

Together with his half-brothers Herod Archelaus and Herod Anti-

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pas, he was educated at Rome, a kind of honorable detention to guarantee his father's loyalty.

When Herod the Great died in 4 BCE, Philip became tetrarch of the outlying parts in the northeast of his father's kingdom: Gaulanitis (the Golan heights), Batanaea (or Basan, the southern part of modern Syria), Trachonitis and Auranitis (Hauran).

Among his subjects, the Jews were a minority; most people were of Syrian or Arabian descent. The latter had a nomadic way of life, although Herod had established some towns (such as Adraa, modern Dara).

Philip would continue this policy in the western half of his realm, strengthening the villages Paneas - at the sources of the Jordan - and Bethsaida, calling them Caesarea and Julias in honor of the emperor and his daughter Julia.

Philip the Tetrarch rebuilt the city of Caesarea Philippi, calling it by his own name to distinguish it from the port of Caesarea on the seacoast which was the seat of the Roman government.

To his nomadic subjects, Philip behaved as a sheik. He constantly travelled through their country with only a small entourage. When someone invoked his help, he im-



A map of the Judean region where the Herod Philip 13mm AE coin was struck in Caesarea Philippi in 30 CE.

mediately ordered his throne to be set down, heard the complaints and gave his opinion.

“His subjects in the cities considered this behavior rather remarkable, but the Arabs must have thought of their king as “one of us.”

He died at Julias in 34 CE, after a rule of 37 years. According to the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, Philip was a person of moderation and quietness in the conduct of his life and government (*Jewish Antiquities*, 18.106).

Philip left no sons, and the emperor Tiberius added his realms to the province of Syria. When Tiberius died in 37, his successor Caligula almost immediately restored the principality; as its king, he appointed Philip's nephew Herod Agrippa.

Bibliography: www.geni.com



BY ANDREW PERALA

The First Book of Moses in the Torah, or Genesis in the Bible, relates the story of the great flood and the ark that saved mankind.

The corruption of mankind, the books relate, required the scouring of the Earth by a 24-7 rainfall of 40 days that would bury all the land and all the creatures living upon it.

This cleansing would not be total. Survivors would outlast the deluge aboard a gigantic boat - an ark - that would house representative species of the land two by two until the waters waned and land reappeared.

Deemed righteous and selected to build the ark, Noah did as his faith commanded.

He enlisted his family members to cut the trees, shape the timbers, frame and enclose the massive ship. Then, they had to build the pens within and stock enough food for all.

Not an easy task for someone who



The 2012 one ounce .999 fine silver bullion coin of the Republic of Armenia, issued since 2011, features Noah's Ark and the dove returning with an olive sprig from the first land found after waters of the deluge began to subside.

would turn 600 years old the day the rains began.

At the end of the rains, and for 150 days afterward, the ark floated above the drowned land with its precious cargo.

Then, Noah let fly a dove. But the

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dove found no perch. After seven days, he let the dove fly again. And again, no land was found. Seven days passed again, again the dove flew off. This time, she returned to Noah with a sprig of olive. Land at last!

Since the relating of this tale in the first pages of the holy books, the dove and olive have represented hope and peace.

Noah's Ark would eventually come to rest on the flanks of Mount Ararat. The doors of the ship would open and the families of Noah and the animals within would spread out into the land, repopulating the world of the time.

The reality of our time adheres to the vision of the flood while forcing us to deal with pressures and forces that likely would have bewildered the ancients with their complexity and convolutions.

The Republic of Armenia, which issued the bullion coin shown with this story, today is home to but a few thousand Jews, remnants of a once thriving community. According to the Jewish Virtual Library, Armenia has a history of Jewish presence dating back 2,000 years.

"Many historians date the arrival of the first Jewish settlement in Armenia back to the destruction of the First Temple," the JVL notes.

"During the conquest of King Tigranes II the Great, Tigranes brought with him 10,000 Jewish captives to Armenia when he



Image courtesy Jewish Virtual Library

The Ark in Yerevan, Armenia, as seen in a contemporary photo taken at the Yerevan Synagogue, which re-established a Jewish house worship in the country in 1995.

retreated from Palestine, because of the Roman attack on Armenia.

"By 360-370 C.E., there was a massive increase in Jewish Hellenistic immigration, many Armenian towns became predominantly Jewish."

But such would not last. The Persian Shapur II deported thousands of Jews to Iran. Then, as elsewhere, the medieval era saw the decimation of Jewish populations in Armenia.

Records show that recovery began approximately by the 13th century with Jews arriving from Poland and Persia. A wave of emigrants from Russia and Ukraine entered Armenia between 1965-1972. Since then, though, thousands of Jews have emigrated to Israel and elsewhere, leaving the current population number a few thousand.

As the bullion coin shows, hope springs eternal for those of faith. ☛

THE WAR OF QUIETUS



The column of Trajan in Rome is an extraordinary work of art. Not only does it document the first use of medical care for soldiers injured in battle, it also depicts specialized forces used in battle, like the bareheaded Berber cavalry of Quietus, shown here, which achieved great success in the Dacian wars preceding the crushing of the Jewish revolt now called the War of Quietus.

BY DAVID HENDIN

There was a significant “Third Revolt” of the Jews during the reign of the emperor Trajan (98-117 C.E.). This war took place between the Jewish War (First Revolt: 66-70 C.E.) and the Bar Kochba War (Second Revolt: 132-135 C.E.).

It was called “the war of Quietus” and took place between the years 115 and 117 C.E. It was fought in Cyrenaica, Cyprus, Egypt, and Mesopotamia, but not in Judaea.

More accurately, the “war of Quietus” was a series of revolts. Very probably these revolts were a direct result of both the aftermath of the

reign of Domitian (who was especially hard on Jews and Christians) as well as attacks under Trajan’s rule on both Jewish and Christian leaders.

We do not know a great deal about the “war of Quietus,” and one reason is that there are no known numismatic materials that refer to this war. By comparison, the numismatic evidence from the First Revolt consists of both the coins of the Jews of the period, as well as the JUDAEA CAPTA coins of the Flavians, which reflects on their view

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Photo courtesy engcoins.com

There is no numismatic evidence of the Jewish War of Quietus, 115-117 C.E. However, this eastern issue semis (22 mm) of Trajan gives him the title PARTHICO "The Parthian" which refers to his early success against the Parthians during this period. The Jewish Talmud refers to this denomination as a "mismis".

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of Rome's victory.

Bar Kochba's coins are likewise very important to our knowledge of the Second Revolt. Indeed, the first name of Bar Kochba, "Simon" was known ONLY from his coins until 1960 when the Bar Kochba letters, discovered in caves near the Dead Sea, were translated by Yigael Yadin.

After Domitian's harsh rule, his successor, Nerva, felt it prudent to do away with some of Domitian's abuses. One step was his elimination of the "insult - or wrongful accusations - of the Jewish Tax." This was commemorated on a famous Nerva sestertius.

As Michael Grant notes, "to be singled out for commemoration on these official coins, the reform must have been regarded by the Roman government as very important."

There is no doubt that at this time

in history there was quite a lot of animosity against the Jews. If you don't believe it, read the very anti-Jewish Tacitus, who in small part stated: "The other practices of the Jews are sinister and revolting, and have entrenched themselves by their very wickedness."

Early in the second century, under Trajan's rule, the head of the Judeo-Christian Church, one Simeon, son of Cleophas, was executed by the Roman governor of Judaea.

Furthermore, Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, a leading gentile Christian, was sent to Rome and executed about the year 110. Grant describes him as "the first significant Christian churchman." (At this point in the history of Christianity there were both Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. Since originally Christianity was an offshoot of Judaism,

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the earliest Christians needed first to be Jews. Later, as Paul spread his gospel throughout the world, he preached that non-Jews could convert directly to Christianity without becoming Jewish first.)

The reasons for these executions are not clear, but they are probably part of a religious persecution by Rome that also underscored the Jewish unrest.

In 110, Trajan moved against Parthia, thus ending a 50-year peace that Nero had established. The Parthians had been weakened by the new, and powerful Kushan kingdom in eastern Iran.

A few years later, Trajan also annexed Armenia, and moved his armies into upper Mesopotamia and Adiabene. Adiabene is a country of special interest, since its ruling dynasty (led by Queen Helena) had voluntarily converted to Judaism in the first century. (Helena's tomb stands today in East Jerusalem, it is known as the "Tomb of the Kings.")

During these various military operations, a large number of Jewish communities came under Trajan's control.

The first uprising came in Cyrenaica, where a Jewish king named Lukuas (also called Andrew) violently attacked the local Greek governments and Roman provincial authorities - all of whom had been weakened in favor of Trajan's Parthian campaigns. Dio Cassius painted a grim picture of Jewish



A contemporary bronze bust of Trajan's brutal general Quietus.

atrocities, culminating with the Jews forcing the Romans and Greeks to fight with wild animals, or as gladiators in the arena. This sounds almost as if the Jews were exacting revenge for similar fates suffered by so many Jewish captives in Rome some 45 years earlier after the First Revolt.

The outbreak had meanwhile spread to Cyprus, and Eusebius reports its capital Salamis was laid waste by them. There is no information about how the Cyprus revolt was ended, but we know of the consequence, Dio Cassius reports that from that time forward Jews were not allowed to appear on the island, under penalty of death.

Violent fighting also followed in Egypt and the synagogue of Alexan-

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dria, said to be a marvel of Egyptian architecture, was destroyed.

To quell these Jewish outbreaks, Trajan's first move was to call in a general named Martius Turbo. By repeated onslaughts against the Jews he overcame the rebellions in Cyprus, Egypt, and Cyrenaica.

To oppose the Jews closer to his own army, in the district of the Euphrates, Trajan turned to his favorite general, Lucius Quietus, a Moorish prince, known for his unpleasant disposition.

Emil Shürer reports that "with barbarious cruelty Quietus executed his commission and laid waste to the mostly Jewish towns of Nisibis and Edessa. Thousands of Jews were put to death. Thus was order restored, and Quietus, in recognition of his services, was appointed governor of Palestine."

Even though accounts of the "war of Quietus" are skimpy, there are reports that as many as half a million casualties occurred amongst the foes.

Apparently as a reward for his good work, in about 117 C.E., Trajan sent Quietus to Judaea as governor of Palestine with unlimited power. This seems to indicate that there was also a certain level of Jewish unrest in Palestine. However, the main Jewish insurrections at this time were clearly outside of Judaea. On the other hand, it is quite probable that the Jewish restiveness in Judaea at the time was the precursor to

the Bar Kochba War which erupted only 14 years later in 131/132 C.E.

Possibly in part because of the Jewish uprisings, Trajan ultimately was unsuccessful in his Parthian campaign and he eventually had to give up on his grandiose plan to turn Parthia into a Roman province. At this time Trajan became very ill. He was taken to Antioch, and died a few months later in Cilicia. His wife, Plotina, told the army that before his death Trajan had named Hadrian as his son and successor.

When Hadrian became emperor, he removed Quietus from this post, probably because the Moorish General had favored Trajan's expansionism. Quietus was executed in Rome the following year, accused of participating in a conspiracy against the emperor.

I discussed the "war of Quietus" with Rabbi Benjamin Yablok, a numismatist and Talmudic scholar. He pointed out that the "war of Quietus" had at least one interesting, long lasting effect on Jewish tradition.

Before that time, Rabbi Yablok explains, when Jewish women were married they would wear golden tiaras or crowns to the ceremony. But, "in commemoration of the misfortunes caused by Lucius Quietus, the Rabbinical sages decreed that brides should no longer wear crowns." Jewish women have not worn golden marriage crowns since that time. □

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RUTH DREIFUSS, PRESIDENT OF SWITZERLAND



A Swiss 1999 5-franc coin, the year Ruth Dreifuss became the first female, and first Jewish president of Switzerland..

Ruth Dreifuss (b. 1940) was born in Switzerland to a Jewish family that had been living in the country for many generations. She studied commerce and social work, and later earned a Master's in economics from the University of Geneva. Dreifuss worked as a hotel secretary, journalist, and social worker before joining Switzerland's Socialist Party.

Throughout the 1970s, she worked for the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the 80s, she was the general-secretary of the Swiss Trade Union (the first woman to hold that position), and by 1993, was elected as an executive member of the Swiss Federal Council, the country's official head of government. The council

is made up of seven officials who collectively run the federal government, with each taking a turn as president for one year.

On May 15, 1998, Ruth Dreifuss was presented with the Award of the World Health Organization Health-for-All Gold Medal. The Citation reads, in part:

"She was elected Federal Councillor by the Swiss Federal Assembly on 10 March 1993 and became head of the Federal Department of the Interior three weeks later, a position she still holds. In her various fields of responsibility, it is in the sphere of public health and other areas associated with the well-being

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Above, Ruth Dreifuss the first woman and first Jew to become President of Switzerland. At right, on May 13, 1999, Ruth Dreifuss, the President of Switzerland, received a medal from the Foreign Policy Association in New York.

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of Switzerland's population that she has been distinguished by her dynamism, competence and commitment. In particular, she was the driving force behind the new sickness insurance law which came into force on 1 January 1997 – and which has made coverage for all Swiss citizens mandatory. The Act also makes provision for insurance companies to finance disease-prevention and health-promotion measures.

The World Health Organization is privileged to present the Health-for-All Gold Medal to Mrs Ruth Dreifuss, a member of the Swiss Federal Council and head of the Federal Department of the Interior, in recognition of her personal support and commitment to the social goal of health for all."

Dreifuss' turn as president came in 1999, making her the first female (and Jewish) president of Switzerland. This was a tremendous achievement, especially because Switzerland was the last country in Europe to grant equal rights to both women and Jews.

During her tenure, she brought forth many improvements to Switzerland, including revisions of the country's health insurance and social security systems. She helped make Switzerland a full member of the United Nations, implemented paid maternity leave, enhanced the country's policies on pensions and drugs, introduced programs for prevention of HIV and drug addiction, and helped Holocaust victims retrieve their money from old Swiss bank accounts. ▢

Courtesy JewoftheWeek.net

DARK AGE MASSACRE



Image courtesy Eon Images

Clifford's Tower is featured on a bronze medal commemorating the 1,900th anniversary of the city of York, England. Issued in 1971, 40 mm., offered recently on eBay for \$8.

By the 1170s there were two primary incentives for the establishment of a Jewish community in York, according to English Heritage: The first was the existence within the city of an important royal castle, which could be used in times of danger to protect the town's Jewish community.

In the late 12th century, York Castle consisted of the motte (mount) on which the present Clifford's Tower stands, and an

outer bailey (courtyard) extending to the south. Instead of the present stone tower, the motte would have been surrounded by a strong timber tower or keep.

A second and even more significant incentive was the emergence amongst the lords, gentry, and religious houses of Yorkshire of a need for financial credit. Jewish money-lenders were well equipped to satisfy this demand and the king himself had set a precedent by

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using their services from about 1164 onward.

Indeed, the Jews were to become a source of enormous wealth to the Crown - not only money-lenders but as the target of relentless taxation.

The site of Clifford's Tower, the keep of York's medieval castle, still bears witness to the most horrifying event in the history of English Jewry.

On the night of 16 March 1190, the feast of *Shabbat ha-Gadol*, the small Jewish community of York was gathered together for protection inside the tower. Rather than perish at the hands of the violent mob that awaited them outside, many of the Jews took their own lives; others died in the flames they had lit, and those who finally surrendered were massacred and murdered.

Understandably, this appalling event has become the most



19th-century illustration, "Death of the Rabbi and the Jews in York." In March 1190, amidst the anti-Semitic environment in England during the Third Crusade, the Jewish community of York was massacred. Credit: Eon Images.

notorious example of anti-Semitism in medieval England.

Yet, it was by no means an isolated incident, but rather the culmination of a tide of violent feeling which swept the country in the early part of 1190. ▢

Bibliography: Clifford's Tower and the Jews of Medieval York (English Heritage, 1995)

NEW NOTE ART AROUSES IRE



The decision to place the images of prominent Jewish artists and poets not born in Israel on a series three Israel New Shekel banknotes stirred protest of “discrimination” from the chairman of the nation’s Shas political party, according to numerous news accounts from Israel.

The release of the 200 NS note in mid-December 2015 prompted Shas leader Aryeh Deri’s assertion that Jews of Middle Eastern background have not been granted “appropriate representation in Israeli popular culture, media, and government,” wrote Moshe Cohen in www.israelnational-news.com.

The 200 NS bank note released in

late December features Natan Alterman, considered “Israel’s poet” by many of the generation that formed the state.

But as Cohen noted, in a letter to government officials, Shas blasted the selection of the Israeli artists and poets featured on the four new bills – all of whom are of European or Ashkenazic background.

Besides Alterman, those whose images will be on the new bills include including Shaul Tchernikovsky (already on the NIS 50 bill), and poets Rachel (Blobstein) and Leah Goldberg.

The Bank of Israel released the note as scheduled on Dec. 23, 2016. □



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